Scrapping of crop insurance scheme

9. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government had approached with a proposal to scrape the crop insurance schems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether the State Government had also requested to fix the Minimum Support Price for certain categories depending upon the investment in the agricultural crops;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh in their reply to the questionnaire circulated by Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) have mentioned fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy and coarse grains commensurate with cost of cultivation and also for chillies, onions, turmeric and castor as these are the commodities required by lower and middle class people.

CACP is a recommendatory body and recommends price policy for mandated agricultural commodities in accordance with its terms of reference.

Plight of cotton growers in Vidarbha due to low yield

10. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pitiable plight of the cotton growers of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra who have been forced to sell their kidneys due to low yield of the crop;

(b) the reasons for the poor yield of cotton in that region; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the yield of crop to a satisfactory level and also to help the farmers in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No report has been received by this Ministry from the Government of Maharashtra about the alleged sale of kidneys by cotton growers. However, Government is aware of the problems of farmers including cotton growers.

(b) The poor yield of cotton in Vidarbha region is attributed mainly due to unfavourable climatic conditions and inadequate assured irrigation.

(c) In order to improve productivity and production of cotton in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in 13 State including Maharashtra.

Under the scheme, assistance is provided to the States and implementing agencies for the production and supply of certified seeds of varieties and hybrids not older than 15 years, transfer of technology through frontline demonstrations; training of farmers through Farmers Field School (FFS) and extension workers, maintenance of nucleus and breeder seeds, plant protection measures including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations, insecticide resistance management, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system.

Further, the Government have taken several steps to provide relief to the farmers. The farmers are provided loans as well as the banks have been advised to rescheduled and restructure the debt of farmers in distress. The farmers are also protected against natural calamities through National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. Further, to protect the interest of the cotton growers, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton every year and wherever the market prices of Kapas touch the Minimum Support Price level, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) of the Ministry of Textiles undertakes support price operation and purchases Kapas.